THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Government are aware of the increase in the strength of the Pakistan Army and Para Military Forces since 1988. The figures mentioned in the Question are, however, at variance with the reports available with the Government.

(b) There are no such reports with the Government.

(c) Situation in the region is constantly monitored and all possible steps are taken to maintain appropriate defence preparedness to meet any threat from our potential adversaries.

Provident fund accounts in BEL

6337. SHRI T.A. MOHAMMED SAQHY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of provident fund accounts in respect of ex-employees of Bharat Electronics Limited, Jalahalli, Bangalore which have not been settled till date;

(b) whether it is a fact that the amount involved has been misappropriated instead of paying to the ex-employees;

(c) what is the amount involved and the details of officials who have got the cheques cleared after issuing in the name of ex-employees;

(d) the amount of PF not yet claimed and lying with B.E. Limited; and

(e) what action Government propose to take to settle the accounts and pay the amount to the ex-employees and fix responsibility on the officials who have misappropriated the amount?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) The number of accounts pending settlement in Bharat Electronics Limited, Jalahalli, Bangalore is 985 amounting to Rs. 6,52,233/-

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise in view of (b) above.

(d) The total amount of provident fund not yet claimed and lying with BEL (all units) is Rs. 27,16,113/-

(e) The accounts of the ex-employees will be settled and paid to them as soon as they comply with the formalities prescribed under the Provident Fund Scheme. As no case of misappropriation has come to notice, the question of fixing responsibility does not arise.

Army officials killed in Kokarnag

6338. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of Army officers and jawans have been killed in an encounter between the Army and militants in Kokarnag, about 80 kms. from Srinagar (J&K State) as reported in the Pioneer of October 21, 1994;

(b) if so, what are the facts and details in this regard;

(c) what are the names and particulars of Army officers and jawans who have been killed and injured in the encounter with militants;

(d) what precautionary measures are being taken to check such mishaps to save the valuable lives of Army officers and jawans;

(e) what are the details of compensation paid or to be paid to the Army officers and jawans who have been killed/injured; and

(f) whether Government have made any additional ex-gratia payment other than the usual benefits to the victims of such encounters in Jammu and Kashmir State and if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) to (c) On 9th October, 1994 an encounter took place at

Nandmarg approximately 20 Kms west of Kokarnag, in which three Other Ranks were killed and one officers was injured. The names of the Army personnel killed are as follows:—

Killed

(i) NK Surjit Singh, 16 Sikh Light Infantry

(ii) Sepoy Mohinder Singh, 12 Kumaon

(iii) Sepoy Baudan Lian, 10 Assam

Injured

(i) Lt. Col. S.K. Razdan, 7 PARA

(d) Standing Operating Procedures and special drills have been laid down to minimise casualties to personnel operating in counter militancy/insurgency environment. These are being followed.

(e) and (f) Casualties occuring during counter militancy/insurgency operations are treated as battle casualties and the victims/next of kins are entitled to liberalised pensionary awards as also some other benefits declared by the Government of India including benefit of compassionate employment at par with war casualties. In addition, the State Government of J&K also pays an ex-gratia amount to the next of kins of personnel killed during the operations against militants.

Action against armed forces for excesses in North Eastern States

6339. SHRI NYODEK YONGGAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether many para-military and army personnel posted in Nagaland, Manipur and Assam were punished or are likely to be punished for committing excesses during the combing search operations in the strife-torn States;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) who recently visited North Eastern States had recommended action against many officers and armed personnel for similar offences; and

(d) if so, what action has been taken or is being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) to (d) During the period from 1990 to 1994, there were 5 cases of excesses alleged against the Armed Forces engaged in counter insurgency operations in the North-Eastern States. These cases have been investigated. In four of these cases, 3 Army personnel have been dismissed from Service and 7 Army personnel, including two Officers have been punished with Rigorous imprisonment and dismissal. In one case disciplinary proceedings against two Army personnel are in progress.

The National Human Rights Commission visited the North-Eastern States of Nagaland and Manipur from 24th to 29th April, 1995. The report of the Commission has not yet been

Demand for optical glasses in ordnance factories

6340. SHRI JIBON ROY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the demand of optical glasses in the ordnance factories during the years 1993-94, 1994-95;

(b) the details of their suppliers;

(c) the figures received from suppliers during the year 1993-94, 1994-95, separately; and

(d) the quantity of optical glasses received by the ordnance factories against their demand during the year 1993-94?